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For release: January 17, 2012 Contact: Bill Schurger (509) 665-2100

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BLM to Hold Public Meetings For Proposed Transmission Line

Spokane, WA – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Spokane District will hold public meetings to solicit comments regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Vantage to Pomona Heights 230kV transmission line project.

The Draft EIS considered eight alternative routes that range from 61 to 67 miles in length, identified a preferred alternative as well as a No Action alternative. The preferred alternative would be 66.3 miles in length. This route would cross a mixture of federal, state, and private lands, and would run generally east from the Pomona Heights Substation near Selah, Washington, continuing eastward, south of the YTC through Yakima County. It would then travel a short distance into Benton County before turning northward, where it would cross the Columbia River into Grant County. From there the route would run northward, partially along the N Road and then across the Saddle Mountains to the Vantage Substation, east of Wanapum Dam.

The dates, times, and locations of the public meetings will be:

Place	Date/Time	<u>Location</u>
Selah	Feb. 5, 2013 6-8 p.m.	Selah Civic Center, 216 South 1st Street
Mattawa	Feb. 6, 2013 6-8 p.m.	Desert Aire Multi-purpose Room, 504 Clubhouse Way

For additional information contact William Schurger at the BLM Wenatchee Field Office, (509) 665-2100. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is available online at the project website: http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/spokane/plans/vph230.php

The BLM manages more land - 245 million surface acres - than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western States, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

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